



KC TENANTS

Tenant Bill of Rights Executive Summary

AS OF: December 10, 2019

KC Tenants: KC Tenants is an organization led by a multiracial, multigenerational base in Kansas City that has sought to build power among poor and working class tenants. KC Tenants is organizing to ensure that everyone in Kansas City has a safe, healthy, accessible, and truly affordable home. After making housing a key issue in the KCMO elections this spring, KC Tenants decided to run a campaign to win a Tenant Bill of Rights, written by the people who are closest to the problems.

Tenant Bill of Rights Package: KC Tenants drafted a Tenant Bill of Rights package, informed by lived experience and support by legal experts, to be passed by the KCMO Mayor and City Council. Tenants make up 48% of the City’s residents. The Bill of Rights package aims to address the housing issues tenants face, especially related to affordability, access, health, and accountability. The proposed package includes a resolution and an ordinance. KC Tenants wants them passed together, and fully funded to ensure implementation and enforcement.

Resolution #190934	TENANTS BILL OF RIGHTS: This resolution affirms the Mayor and Council’s commitment to enforcing existing tenant rights, and lists additional protections that will allow Kansas City’s tenants more security in their housing. The resolution specifically affirms the right to safe and accessible housing, freedom from discrimination and retaliation, right to fair compensation and restorative justice, and right to organize and bargain. To ensure implementation and enforcement, the resolution directs the Council to establish an adequately-funded Division of Housing and Community Development under the Department of Neighborhoods and Housing Services (see below).
Ordinance #190935	<p>TENANT ADVOCACY: The ordinance establishes a Division of Housing and Community Development aka Division of the Tenant Advocate. This division will have the authority to suspend or revoke permits if the ordinance is violated.</p> <p>OUR RIGHTS: Property owner must provide a Tenants Bill of Rights to tenants.</p> <p>DISCLOSURE OF PAST ISSUES: Owner must disclosure past issues with unit.</p> <p>NOTICE BEFORE ENTRY: Owner must give at least 24 hour notice and/or seek affirmative consent before entry. Notice must specify the date and time of intended entry, the identity of the person or persons to enter, and the reason for entry.</p> <p>BAN THE BOX: Owner can’t discriminate on the basis of prior arrests, convictions, or evictions. While they may run a check, they must also consult other references and have a negotiation. A tenant can’t be denied based on a box on the application.</p> <p>UTILITIES DISCLOSURE: Owner must give tenant the numbers for all the utility providers so the tenant can get an estimate of the utilities. property owner must give consent as needed for tenant to get the estimate.</p> <p>SOURCE OF INCOME: Owner can’t refuse to rent solely because of lawful source of income, including but not limited to pay, child support, and rental assistance. But owners aren’t required to take vouchers if they don’t participate in the program(s).</p> <p>PROTECTED CLASSES: No discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, mental or physical disability, marital status, familial status, age, sexual orientation or gender identity, gender expression, ethnic background, or being a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or stalking</p>